

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OAS, IA-ECOSOC

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - 10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF OAS

-- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

1. THE REGULAR MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE OAS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, MARCH 10-15. SEVEN OR EIGHT MINISTERS OF ECONOMY WILL ATTEND.

2. YOU AND I WILL BOTH BE AWAY. WE HAVE SUGGESTED YOU ASK SECRETARY SIMON TO MAKE THE U.S. ADDRESS. BILL MAILLIARD WILL BE IN THE CHAIR FOR US MOST OF THE TIME.

3. THE ITEM OF MAJOR INTEREST ON THE AGENDA IS THE U.S. TRADE ACT. IT WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA PURSUANT TO THE RECENT RESOLUTION OF THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL. THE OAS SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED A REASONABLY BALANCED ANALYSIS OF

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THE TRADE ACT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE MEETING.

4. AN ITEM OF SECONDARY INTEREST IS THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. IT MAY GIVE RISE TO HEATED DISCUSSION BECAUSE THE U.S. DELEGATION DID NOT APPROVE THIS REPORT. OUR OBJECTIONS WERE BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE REPORT FAILS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECT OF OIL PRICES ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND

PROSPECTS OF THE HEMISPHERE. THE REPORT IS A HIGHLY POLITICAL DOCUMENT, AND NOT AT ALL BALANCED AS IS THE SECRETARIAT'S REPORT ON THE TRADE ACT.

5. SOME DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, WILL PROBABLY USE THE MEETING TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK ON THE TRADE ACT SO AS TO BUILD STRENGTH FOR THE NEXT ASSAULT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OTHERS WILL FEEL OBLIGED IN PUBLIC SESSIONS TO DISPLAY SOLIDARITY. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF OUR DELEGATION, TAKING THE CUE FROM YOUR SPEECH OF MARCH 1, IS TO GET THE DIALOGUE BACK INTO A MORE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PATH.

6. THE DISCUSSION OF THE TRADE ACT WILL BE THE REAL TEST. THEY HOPE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE INFORMAL WORKING SESSIONS TO CONSIDER IN DETAIL THE OAS SECRETARIAT REPORT ON THE TRADE ACT IN THE HOPE OF COUNTERBALANCING THE DISTORTED VIEW THAT HAS BEEN CREATED. INGERSOLL

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